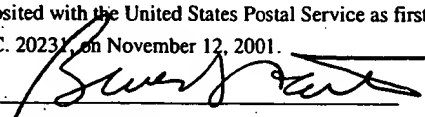


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Beverly S. Carter

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In the application of:

Takayuki TOSHIMA et al

Serial No.: 09/971,136

Filing Date: October 3, 2001

For: SUBSTRATE PROCESSING METHOD  
AND SUBSTRATE PROCESSING  
APPARATUS

Examiner: Unknown

Group Art Unit: Unknown

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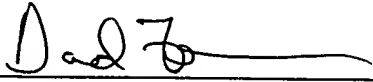
Dear Sir:

Enclosed herewith are certified copies of Japanese Patent Application No. 2000-304375 filed October 4, 2000 and Japanese Patent Application No. 2001-041482 filed February 19, 2001, from which priority is claimed under 35 U.S.C. 119 and Rule 55.

Acknowledgement of the priority documents is respectfully requested to ensure that the subject information appears on the printed patent.

Dated: November 12, 2001

Respectfully submitted,

By:   
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